



The Revolutions Of 1848

“The Springtime of Peoples”



*The turning point at
which history failed to
turn.*

--- George Macaulay Trevelyn
[1937]



Pre-1848 Tensions: Long-Term

G Industrialization

- Economic challenges to rulers.
- Rapid urbanization.
- Challenges to the artisan class.

G Population doubled in the 18^c

- Food supply problems → **Malthus**

G Ideological Challenges

- Liberalism, Nationalism, Democracy, Socialism.

G Romanticism

G Repressive Measures

- Secret police created in many European states.



Pre-1848 Tensions: Short-Term

G Agricultural Crises

- Poor cereal harvests
 - prices rose 60% in one year.
- Potato blight → Ireland
 - Prices rose 135% for food in one year!

G Financial Crises

- Investment bubbles burst → railways, iron, coal.
- Unemployment increased rapidly [esp. among the artisan class].



Working & middle classes are now joined in misery as are the urban and agricultural peasantry!

Prince Metternich



1815: *We have redrawn Europe's map for eternity.*

Not Really: Centers of Revolution in 1848





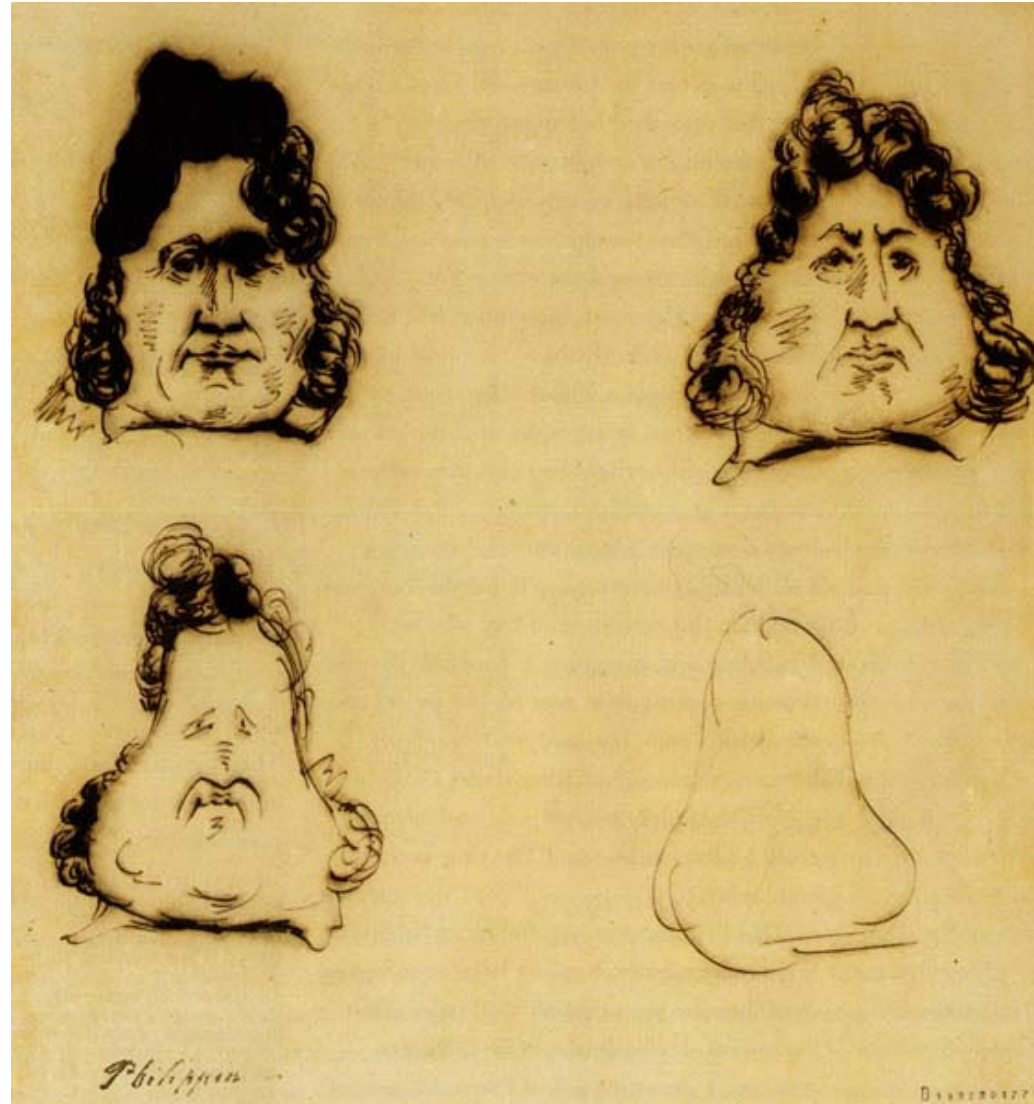
No Coherent Organized Revolutions

- G Many different reasons for revolutionary activities.
 - Reactions to long- and short-term causes.
- G Competing ideologies in different countries.
- G Different revolutionary leaders, aims, and goals in different countries.
- G Some countries had no revolutions:
 - England-made reforms
 - Russia-Tsar Nicholas-totalitarian gov't and military-Enforcer



FRANCE

Louis Philippe, "The Pear," 1848





Prince Louis: *Not Too Steady!*



Victor Hugo & Miguel de Girardin try to raise Prince Louis upon a shield. [Honoré Damier's lithograph published in *Charavari*, December 11, 1848].



The February Revolution

- G Working class & liberals unhappy with King Louis Philippe, esp. with his minister, **Francois Guizot** [who opposed electoral reform].
- G Reform Banquets used to protest against the King.
 - **Paris Banquets (political meetings)** banned.
 - Troops open fire on peaceful protestors.
 - Barricades erected; looting.
 - National Guard [politically disenfranchised] defects to the radicals.
 - King Louis Philippe loses control of Paris and abdicates on February 24.





Provisional Government

- G Moderates and Radicals established a new **Provisional Government**.
- Conservatives & liberals are suspicious of republicanism
 - Reminiscent of the Reign of Terror.

Louis Blanc

- G A Social Democrat.
- G He believed in the “Right to Work.”
 - National Workshops.
 - Provide work for the unemployed unskilled jobs
- G Financial Crisis
 - Cost of the program was burdensome to the government.





The Coalition Splits: Mar.-May

- The conflicts between moderate republicans (support of most of France) and Radical Republicans (Parisian working class)

The nature of work.

The right to unionize.

Pay levels.

April Elections

- G Resulted in a conservative majority in the National Assembly.
 - They began debating the fate of social programs [like the National Workshops].
- G The conservative majority wanted the removal of radicals like Blanc from the government.
 - In early June, the National Workshops were shut down.
 - This heightened class tensions!



The “June Days”

G Worker groups in Paris rose up in insurrection.

- They said that the government had betrayed the revolution.
 - Workers wanted a redistribution of wealth.
- Barricades in the streets.
 - Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* was based on this event and 1830's revolution.

G A new liberal-conservative coalition formed to oppose this lower class radicalism.



Paris: To the Barricades Again!



The 2nd French Republic (1848-1852)

- G Government forces crushed the revolt.
 - 10,000 dead. Many sent to Algerian prisons
 - A victory for conservatives.
- G Nov., 1848 → a new constitution provided for:
 - An elected President with universal suffrage
 - A one-house legislature-Legislative Assembly



The Republic
by
Jean-Leon Gerome





President Louis Napoleon

G The December election:

- The “law and order” candidate, **Louis Napoleon Bonaparte**, was elected “President”
- This was a big shift in middle class opinion to the right!



G The New President:

- Purged the govt. of all radical officials.
 - Replaced them with ultra-conservative and monarchists.
- Disbanded the National Assembly and held new elections.
 - Represented himself as a “Man of the People.”
- His government regularly used force against dissenters.

1851 Coup d'Etat



- G President Louis Napoleon declared a hereditary 2nd French Empire.
- G Emperor Napoleon!!!
- G A national plebiscite confirmed this.



The HAPSBURG EMPIRE- Austria



The Austrian Empire: 1830





Ferdinand I (1793-1875)

- G The nature of the Austrian Empire:
 - Very conservative monarchy [liberal institutions didn't exist].
- G Culturally and racially heterogeneous.
- G Social reliance on serfdom dooms masses of people to a life without hope.
- G Corrupt and inefficient.
- G Competition with an increasingly powerful Prussia.



Therefore, the Empire was vulnerable to revolutionary challenges.

Austrian Students Form a Militia





Vienna, 1848: The Liberal Revolution

- G The “February Revolution” in France triggered a rebellion for liberal reforms.
- G March 13 → rioting broke out in Vienna.
 - The Austrian Empire collapsed.
 - Metternich fled.
 - Constituent Assembly met.
 - Serfdom abolished.
 - The revolution began to wane.
 - The revolutionary government failed to govern effectively.



**The New Austrian
Emperor Franz Joseph I [r. 1848-1916]**
(Ferdinand I had abdicated in favor of his
nephew)



The Hungarian Revolution





Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894)

- G Hungarian revolutionary leader.
- G March laws provided for Hungarian independence.
- G Austrians invade.
- G Slavic minorities resisted Magyar invasion & the Hungarian army withdrew.
- G Austrian & Russian armies defeated Hungarian army.
- G Hungary would have to wait until 1866 for autonomy.



Tsar Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855)



G He raised an army of 400,000 in response to a request from Franz Joseph.

- 140,000 put down the Hungarian revolt.



Italy



Upheaval in Italy, 1848

- G Italian nationalists and liberals sought to end foreign domination of Italy.
- G Milan, Lombardy & Venetia wanted to expel their Austrian rulers.
- G Beginning in May, revolutions suppressed.





Italy, 1848



- G **Giuseppe Mazzini** established a Roman Republic in 1849 protected by **Giuseppe Garibaldi**.
- G **Pope Pius IX** forced to flee.
- G Austria crushed Sardinia-Piedmont.
- G French troops take back the Papal States.
- G **Victor Emmanuel II** takes the throne in Sardinia-Piedmont.





Reasons for Failure in Italy

- G Rural people did not support the revolutions.
 - Revolutionaries focused mainly on urban middle classes.
- G The revolutionaries were not united.
 - Fear of radicals among moderates lead to the collapse of the revolutions.
- G Lack of leadership and administrative experience among the revolutionaries.

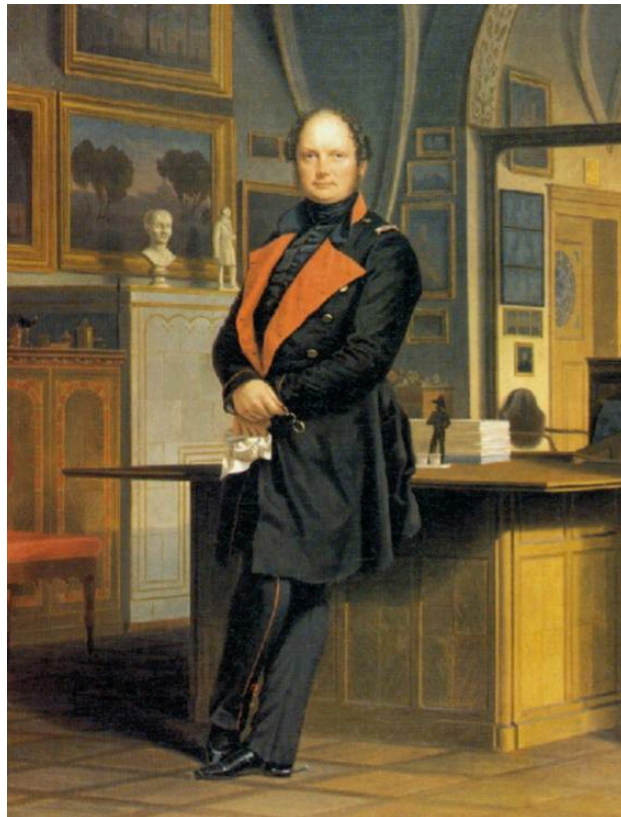


The German States

Germania - 1848



Frederick William IV of Prussia (1840-1861)



- G Anti-liberal/Romantic.
- G Relied on *Junker* support.
- G Prussia in the mid-19^c:
 - Efficient.
 - Good economy.
 - Strong military.



The German Attempts

- G After the February French revolutions, there were many riots in minor German states.
- G Austria and Prussia expected to intervene to crush these revolts, BUT:
 - Vienna Revolution → led to the fall of Metternich.
 - Berlin riots
 - Prussian army efficiently suppressed the revolutionaries.

Funeral for Berlin Freedom Fighters





The Frankfurt Assembly

- G German liberals are overjoyed!
- G German National Assembly established in Frankfurt debated the following:
 - Universal suffrage.
 - Delegates mostly from the middle class.
 - Debate over the nature of the state → monarchy of Habsburgs or Hohenzollerns?
 - They chose the Austrian Habsburg Archduke John rather than the King of Prussia.
 - He was a well-known liberal sympathizer.
 - But they couldn't guarantee the loyalty of the Prussian Army.



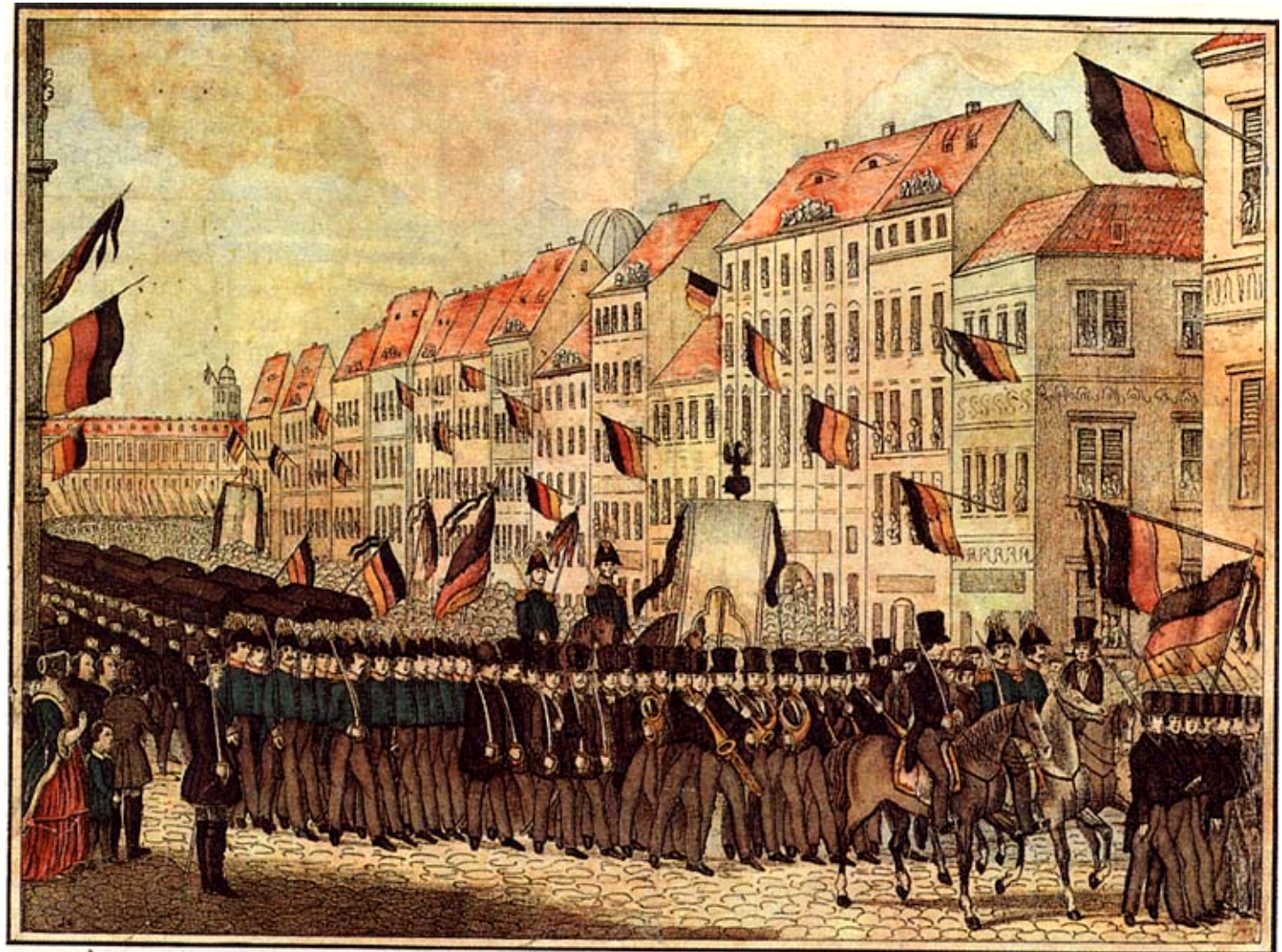
The Frankfurt Assembly

- Debated over a "Big Germany" (Grossdeutsch)-wanted to include Austria or
- or "Small Germany" (Kleindeutsch) exclude Austria and make Prussian king the Emperor of the "new" German State
- G Austrians withdrew BUT Fred. William IV refused title-ordered all Prussian delegates home
 - G END of THAT STORY-FAILURE

Frankfurt Assembly Meets



A Citizen Militia on Parade in Berlin





The “Three Germanies”





A New German Confederation

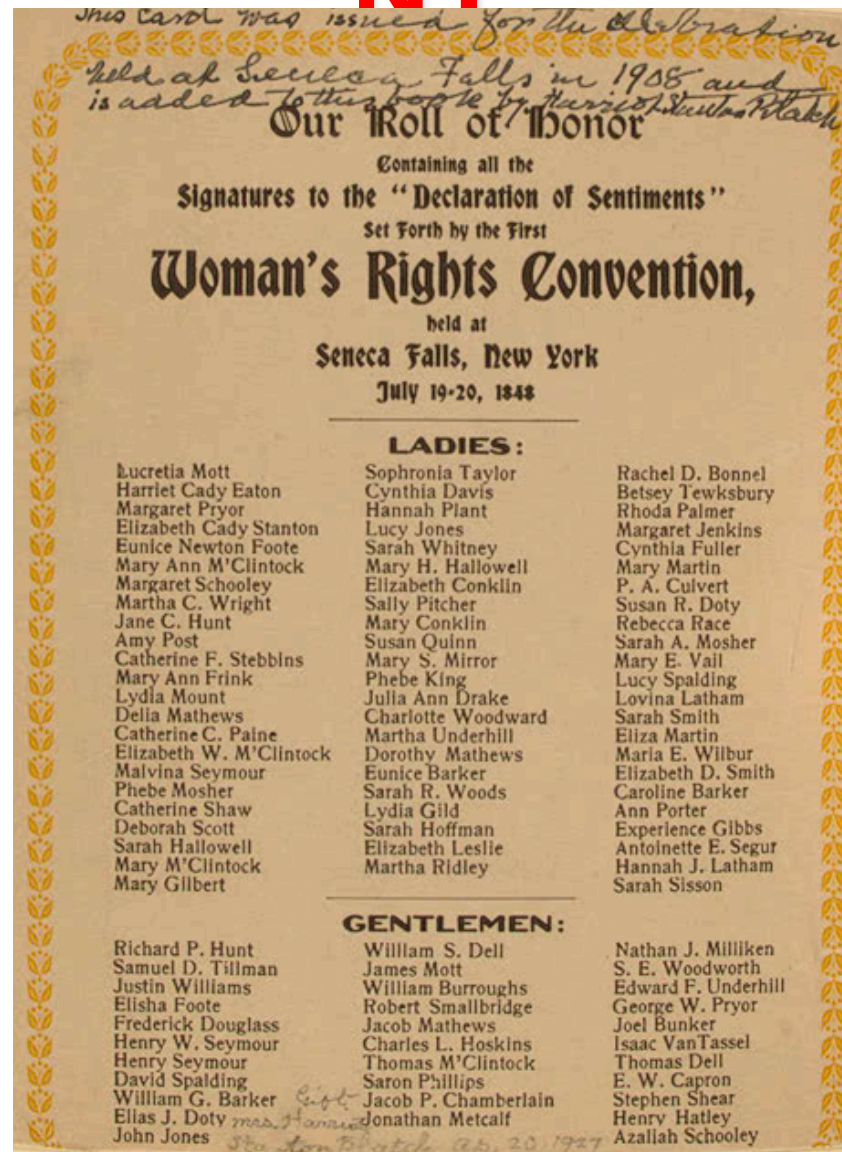


- G 1850 → the German Confederation was re-established at Olmutz.
- G Rule of force was the only winner!



1848: Outside the Continent

Seneca Falls Convention, NY



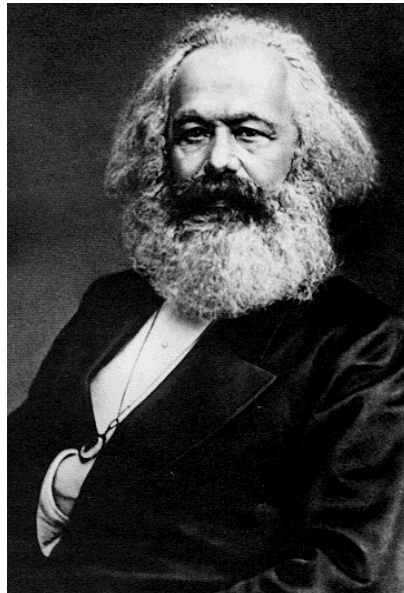


THE AFTERMATH

Democrats Swept Out of Europe



The Communist Manifesto



Karl Marx



Friedrich
Engels



Why did the 1848 Revolutions Fail?

- G They failed to attract popular support from the working classes.
- G The middle classes led these revolutions, but as they turned radical, the middle class held back.
- G Nationalism divided more than united.
- G Where revolutions were successful, the Old Guard was left in place and they turned against the revolutionaries.
- G Some gains lasted [abolition of serfdom, etc.]
- G BUT, in the long term, most liberal gains would be solidified by the end of the 19^c:
 - The unification of Germany and Italy.
 - The collapse of the Hapsburg Empire at the end of World War I.



The Bottom Line

- G It looked like the Conservative forces had triumphed.
- G BUT...
 - Things had changed forever.
 - Economic/social problems continued to be constant challenges to the ruling order.
 - Conservatives would have to make concessions in order to stay in power.
 - Many of the limited Liberal achievements remained permanent.



Some Bibliographic Sources

G “The Revolutions of 1848” by R. Folmer. St. Joseph’s H. S. (PPT).

G “The Revolutions of 1848” by Stephen Luscombe. (PPT).